



Homeland
Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

27 August 2012

Top Stories

- The majority of the States of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, as well as major portions of Nebraska and Missouri are now under exceptional drought conditions, the most severe classification on the U.S. Drought Monitor. – *Agriculture.com* (See item [15](#))
- Maricopa, Arizona, was in a state of emergency after rain backed up the sewage system, flooding roads and threatening water storage areas. – *InMaricopa.com* (See item [19](#))
- A parolee was arrested in connection with an explosion that shattered glass doors at the Bass Lake, California courthouse. – *Associated Press* (See item [24](#))
- A disgruntled former worker sparked chaos in front of the Empire State Building when he shot and killed a co-worker and engaged in a gun battle with police that left at least eight others wounded. – *CNN* (See item [33](#))
- A levee system protecting Sacramento, California, and 15 other cities from floods does not meet federal maintenance requirements, threatening eligibility for federal rebuilding dollars if the system should fail. – *Associated Press* (See item [44](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *August 24, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Antero cited for violation in W.Va. gas well fire.** The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued a notice of violation to Colorado-based Antero Resources for a natural gas drilling rig fire that injured three workers. The DEP's Office of Oil and Gas said August 23 the penalty for the violation remains under review. Antero was cited for failure to maintain well control at its Southern pad near Sycamore. The week of August 13, a spark ignited methane gas several hundred feet underground, triggering an hour-long fire on the floor of the drilling rig at Antero's Cottrill No. 3 well. The victims worked for the contractor, Hall Drilling of Ellenboro. The DEP has ordered Antero to cease any operations that are not related to regaining control of the well. It also issued sampling orders for water wells within 2,000 feet of the site.
Source: <http://www.mariettatimes.com/page/content.detail/id/250012/Antero-cited-for-violation-in-W-Va--gas-well-fire-.html?isap=1&nav=5019>
2. *August 23, Associated Press* – (Colorado; Utah) **QEP pays \$1.2M for keeping inaccurate records.** Natural gas and oil company QEP Resources Inc. has paid a \$1.2 million fine for inaccurate royalty and production reports for oil and gas wells in Colorado and Utah. The U.S. Department of the Interior said August 23 that the Denver-based company failed to correct reports for 35 leases after assuring the government that it would. It said the civil penalty was issued against the company in early July and the company is now correcting the reports. They date from March 2008 through December 2009. QEP operates in the Rocky Mountain region and the Midwest.
Source:
http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_QEP_RESOURCES_FINE?SITE=ND&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2012-08-23-18-14-05

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Chemical Industry Sector

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

3. *August 24, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Feds settle claims over radioactive waste disposal.** The federal government and a U.S. Department of Energy contractor reached a \$230,000 settlement over allegations that the company improperly handled and disposed of radioactive waste from a nuclear reprocessing plant in Paducah, Kentucky, between 1998 and 2004, the Associated Press reported August 24. The settlement ends

a 10-year legal battle started by two former employees at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant on behalf of the federal government. The employees sued in 2002, claiming the contractor, Bechtel Jacobs, mishandled waste from the plant over a 6 year period. This included hazardous waste being handled as nonhazardous, lack of proper licenses and permits on the part of a subcontractor, disposing of “no radiation added” waste at a radioactive waste site instead of the plant’s sanitary landfill, and disposing of waste at the same landfill with excessive amounts of free liquids. The plant produces enriched uranium for use at nuclear power plants.

Source: <http://www.chem.info/News/2012/08/Environmental-Controls-Feds-Settle-Claims-over-Radioactive-Waste-Disposal/>

4. *August 23, York Daily Record* – (Pennsylvania) **TMI shut down for repairs.** Officials at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Londonderry Township, Pennsylvania, started to manually shut down the plant’s Unit 1 reactor August 22 after they discovered issues with a heater element on the plant’s pressurizer tank, a spokesman for the plant said. The element creates additional steam that helps control pressure in the plant, he said. The reactor must be offline for workers to repair the element. Electric customers were not affected. Two hours into the manual shutdown, pumps on the non-nuclear side of the plant stopped working, triggering an automatic shutdown of Unit 1. Backup pumps came online as designed. Public health and safety were not threatened by either the issue with the heater element or the plant’s shutdown, the spokesman said.

Source: http://www.ydr.com/ci_21372793/tmi-shut-down-repairs

5. *August 23, Aiken Leader* – (National) **Plutonium fuel (MOX) plans at SRS hit another obstacle; Plans for MOX in boiling water reactors can’t be implemented before 2025.** A presentation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on experimental mixed oxide plutonium fuel (MOX) made from surplus weapons-grade plutonium revealed a major hurdle for the MOX program at the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site in South Carolina, the Aiken Leader reported August 23. August 8, NRC staff members in the preliminary stages of licensing MOX plutonium fuel were informed by Global Nuclear Fuels (GNF) that MOX intended for use in boiling water reactors (BWRs) must undergo extensive testing, significantly delaying full-scale MOX production and use. GNF, which makes BWR fuel at its facility in Wilmington, North Carolina, revealed its licensing plan involves testing 16 “lead use assemblies” between 2016 and 2025. MOX made from weapons-grade plutonium has never been tested or used in a BWR and the NRC agreed that such MOX was a “new fuel form” requiring multi-year testing in a reactor. During this test period, no commercial BWR MOX use could take place. The information from GNF will significantly delay full-scale operation of the \$6-billion MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility now under construction at the Savannah River Site, increasing costs. The MOX facility has yet to receive an operating license from the NRC and a possible redesign to process plutonium “pits” not processed at Los Alamos National Laboratory will add to costs.

Source: <http://aikenleader.villagesoup.com/blog/blogpost/plutonium-fuel-mox-plans-at-srs-hit-another-obstacle-plans-for-mox-in-boiling-water-reactors-can-t-b/887543>

Critical Manufacturing Sector

6. *August 23, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Pennsylvania) **U.S. Labor Department’s OSHA cites Phoenixville, Pa., die manufacturer for serious workplace hazards.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) August 23 cited Danco Precision Inc. in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, with 14 safety violations found at a manufacturing facility. OSHA’s March investigation resulted in \$55,500 in proposed penalties. Thirteen serious violations involved failing to: control potentially hazardous energy; have and implement a hazard communication plan that includes training; provide barriers to protect employees from falls; conduct a personal protective equipment assessment and provide protective equipment for various operations; provide and certify powered industrial truck training; provide material safety data sheets; implement die-setting procedures, inspect alloy steel slings; address deficiencies with mechanical power presses including a lack of proper guarding; use safety blocks when setting dies; perform inspections of all presses, and properly label containers of chemicals. One other-than-serious violation was also cited.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=22878

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *August 24, Associated Press* – (California) **2 contractors plead not guilty to Navy bribery.** Two defense contractors pleaded not guilty to bribing officials at a San Diego Navy base in exchange for millions of dollars in business. UT San Diego reported the two suspects of La Jolla entered the pleas August 23 in federal court to conspiracy, money laundering, bribery, and wire fraud. Prosecutors claimed they gave officials at Naval Air Station North Island more than \$1 million in cash and gifts, including flat screen TVs. Authorities said in return, their Poway companies received \$4 million in defense business. Authorities claimed the contractors also submitted phony bills to the Defense Department that covered the cost of the bribes. Seven other people, including four Navy officials from North Island, pleaded guilty to bribery charges in March. They await sentencing.

Source: <http://www.ktvn.com/story/19359900/2-contractors-plead-not-guilty-to-navy-bribery>

8. *August 22, Stars and Stripes* – (Ohio) **Defense contractor guilty of providing old parts to Navy.** A federal jury in Ohio found a defense contractor guilty on 39 counts of fraud and related offenses for knowingly providing out-of-date electronics critical to U.S. Navy nuclear reactors, submarines, and aircraft, Stars and Stripes reported August 22. The suspect sold the Navy military surplus and decades-old parts essential to weapons systems and safety, stated the indictment filed by federal prosecutors. The convictions August 17 include 25 counts of mail fraud, 9 counts of wire fraud, 3 counts

of money laundering, and 2 counts of making false official statements. A federal judge ordered the suspect to forfeit \$355,000, stated court documents August 21. The suspect sold at least 21 shipments of parts that did not conform with federal guidelines in 2006-09 through his company, J&W Technologies LLC. The non-conforming parts included transistors, semiconductors, voltage regulators, and microcircuitry. The suspect faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for each fraud count, up to 10 years for the money laundering counts, and up to 5 years for each of the false official statements. Source: <http://www.stripes.com/news/us/defense-contractor-guilty-of-providing-old-parts-to-navy-1.186518>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *August 23, Ogden Standard-Examiner* – (National) **Bucket List Bandit hits again in Illinois.** The ‘Bucket List Bandit’ robbed another bank, this time in Bloomington, Illinois, the Ogden Standard-Examiner reported August 23. The robber, nicknamed because he passed a threatening note to a teller at a Wells Fargo Bank in Roy, Utah, July 6 claiming he only had 4 months to live, is now a suspect in an August 17 robbery at a PNC Bank in Bloomington. In addition to the Roy and Bloomington robberies, the man is suspected of bank heists in Arvada, Colorado; Flagstaff, Arizona; Pocatello, Idaho; Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and Chattanooga, Tennessee, since early July. Source: <http://www.standard.net/stories/2012/08/23/bucket-list-bandit-hits-again-illinois>
10. *August 23, Bloomberg News* – (National) **FTC wins \$478 million award in ‘easy money’ scam case.** The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) said the operators of three “get-rich-quick” systems were ordered to pay \$478 million for deceiving almost 1 million consumers with phony money-making claims, Bloomberg News reported August 23. The court order represents the largest litigated judgment ever obtained by the agency and is part of its effort to stop scams that prey on financially distressed consumers, the FTC said. One system was sold with the promise that customers could “quickly and easily earn substantial amounts of money by purchasing homes at tax sales in their area ‘free and clear’ for just ‘pennies on the dollar,’ and then turning around and selling these homes for full market value or renting them out for a profit,” the FTC said in its June 2009 complaint. John Beck Amazing Profits LLC, John Alexander LLC, and Jeff Paul LLC were among the defendants. The court found that despite the marketers’ claims, almost all of the consumers who bought the \$39.95 systems lost money. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-08-23/ftc-wins-478-million-award-in-easy-money-scam-case>

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Transportation Sector

11. *August 24, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **Man accused of bomb threat to SA Airport.** San Antonio police arrested a man accused of making a bomb threat at the San Antonio International Airport, the San Antonio Express-News reported August 24. While not accused in the August 1 threat that shut down the facility, he faces one count of making a threat or influencing the activities of a branch of the federal government in connection with a phone call he allegedly made August 22. He was being held in a county jail on \$30,000 bail.
Source: http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/article/Man-accused-of-bomb-threat-to-SA-Airport-3812383.php#ixzz24TDaISiS
12. *August 24, KCBS 2 Los Angeles* – (California) **3 injured in Metrolink, big rig crash.** A Metrolink commuter train with 38 passengers slammed into a big-rig at an agricultural crossing near Camarillo Airport in Ventura County, California, injuring three people August 24. The truck driver and his passenger were hospitalized in unknown condition. A Metrolink spokesman said Los Angeles-bound train No. 102 struck the big-rig near 5th Street and Pleasant Valley Road about 2 miles west of the Camarillo train station. Several passengers were being treated for minor cuts and bruises. The track was shut down for hours and the damaged train had to be towed away. The Ventura County Star said the tractor-trailer rig was hauling the agriculture chemical methylbromite, but the California Highway Patrol said there was not a spill.
Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2012/08/24/2963239/metrolink-train-hits-big-rig-in.html>
13. *August 23, Tampa Bay Times* – (Florida) **No-boat zone for 15 Tampa bridges.** The U.S. Coast Guard said it will ban loitering, stopping, mooring, or anchoring of boats within 50 yards of 15 Tampa Bay-area bridges during the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida, the Tampa Bay Times reported August 23. The ban will be enforced 24 hours a day around the three main bridges across Tampa Bay beginning August 25. The ban will be enforced at a dozen more bridges in Pinellas County at times when delegate buses are likely to cross them. “Current analysis indicates that some activist groups are planning maritime activities to make their political views known,” the Coast Guard said in a rule, published in the Federal Register.
Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2012/08/23/3474227/coast-guard-boats-to-be-kept-50.html>
14. *August 22, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Ellicott City derailment raises questions of track safety.** As cleanup crews and investigators focused on the aftermath of a coal train derailment that killed two college students in Ellicott City, Maryland, some officials were looking at new ways to keep people off the tracks that run through the historic district, the Baltimore Sun reported August 22. Hours after the friends were killed sitting on the railroad bridge over Main Street, a representative of the railroad company CSX was on the scene looking at several points of access to the tracks, sizing up what might be done, a Howard County spokesman said. He said a county executive spoke with CSX representatives soon after the derailment about what the company and the county could do to tighten security around the tracks.

Source: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2012-08-22/news/bs-md-ho-train-derailment-folo-20120822_1_coal-train-derailment-rail-cars-jim-southworth

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *August 23, Agriculture.com* – (National) **Central U.S. drought intensifies.** The majority of the States of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, as well as major portions of Nebraska and Missouri are under exceptional drought conditions, the most severe classification on the U.S. Drought Monitor, stated the August 23 update of the Monitor. Though cooler temperatures were a common feature of the weather recently, it did not stop the drought's growth; in addition to those areas under the most severe drought conditions, the majority of an area from western Nebraska to Indiana is under extreme drought. "More widespread rains in the Midwest alleviated some moderate to exceptional drought as well as abnormal dryness through southern Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio and into western Kentucky again this week. Lingering drought impacts remain in many areas, leaving devastated agriculture in its wake," stated a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Climate Data Center specialist.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/news/crops/central-us-drought-intensifies_2-ar25970

16. *August 23, Food Safety News* – (Minnesota) **Salmonella linked to turkey jerky sickens 4 in Minnesota.** Four cases of Salmonella infection were linked to turkey jerky produced by a Minnesota company, Food Safety News reported August 23. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) warned consumers not to eat whole-muscle turkey jerky manufactured by Hoffman Town & Country Meat Market because investigators linked the product to a cluster of four illnesses from the same strain of Salmonella. The first patient became ill August 2 and the last illness onset was August 7, stated the MDH. One of the victims was hospitalized but all have since recovered. All four victims reported eating turkey jerky during the week before becoming ill. Hoffman Town & Country issued a voluntary recall of all whole muscle turkey jerky sold on or before August 21. The product was sold wrapped in white butcher paper.
- Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/08/four-cases-of-salmonella-infection/#.UDeHzaC6TIY>

17. *August 23, Bloomberg News* – (National) **Beef cattle herds shrink amid drought.** The worst U.S. drought in half a century and record feed prices have spurred farmers to

shrink cattle herds to the smallest in two generations, driving beef prices higher, Bloomberg News reported August 23. Beef output will slump to a 9-year low in 2013 after drought damaged pastures from Missouri to Montana, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimated. The domestic herd is now the smallest since at least 1973, and retail prices reached a record in July, USDA data show. Feedlots lost \$300 a head in August fattening cattle for slaughter, after corn had surged 61 percent since June 15, University of Missouri data show. Beef output in the United States, the world's largest producer, will drop 3.9 percent to 24.58 billion pounds in 2013, the lowest since 2004, the USDA estimated. The domestic herd across ranches, feedlots, and dairies dropped to 97.8 million July 1, the smallest for the date in at least 39 years, the latest data show. The domestic price of beef will rise as much as 5 percent in 2013, more than any other food group including fruits, cereals, and dairy products, the USDA estimated.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-drought-beef-20120823,0,2978935.story>

18. *August 22, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **Dole Fresh Vegetables announces recall of limited number of salads.** Dole Fresh Vegetables voluntarily recalled 1,039 cases of bagged salad, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported August 22. The product being recalled was 10-ounce Dole Italian Blend due to a possible health risk from *Listeria monocytogenes*. Dole Fresh Vegetables was coordinating closely with regulatory officials. The salads were distributed in eight U.S. States: Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Mississippi, and Virginia. This recall notification was being issued due to an isolated instance in which a sample of Dole Italian Blend salad yielded a positive result for *Listeria monocytogenes* in a random sample test conducted by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm316680.htm>

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Water Sector

19. *August 22, InMaricopa.com* – (Arizona) **State of emergency declared for Tortosa flooding.** Maricopa, Arizona, was in a state of emergency after 5 hours of heavy rainfall August 21 caused a backup of the sewage system, overwhelming the Global Water sewer pumping station, according to a media advisory from the city. The mayor declared the emergency in the event of additional rain and for financial and resources assistance. Public works crews were dispatched to various locations throughout the city and several roads were closed because of flash flooding. Road crews reported a large amount of water in the Tortosa area after discovering water, which travels through the Casa Blanca drainage channel as runoff from the Sacaton Mountains, had begun to flow down Dalli Lane towards a large water retention area August 22.

Source: <http://www.inmaricopa.com/Article/2012/08/22/mayor-price-state-of-emergency-tortosa-flooding>

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [42](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *August 24, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **2nd West Nile death reported in Illinois.** A man from Elgin, Illinois, has died of the West Nile virus, the Associated Press reported August 24. The Kane County Health Department said the man died the week of August 13. The man is the second human death from West Nile virus this season in Illinois. The virus is striking people earlier in 2012 because the weather created good breeding conditions for the mosquito that carries the virus.

Source: <http://wjbc.com/2nd-west-nile-death-reported-in-illinois/>

21. *August 24, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **Woman hurt in massive N. Side fire.** A woman was hospitalized after a massive fire engulfed a San Antonio, Texas dental office building August 24 around 2:15 a.m., officials said. A fire department spokesman said the woman had permission to be at the property, and may be a caretaker. She suffered slight smoke inhalation. Arson investigators were still trying to determine what caused the fire, which caused an estimated \$750,000 in damage.

Source: http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/article/Two-alarm-fire-damages-dental-office-building-3812397.php

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Government Facilities Sector

22. *August 23, KWCH 12 Hutchinson* – (Kansas) **Investigation at Dodge City library complete, man arrested.** Dodge City, Kansas police cleared the library of a bomb threat August 23 after it was evacuated because of a possible suspicious package. Library employees overheard a man talking on a pay phone, who made reference to an explosive device going off in 15 minutes. Library employees identified the man to police. They took the man in for questioning and evacuated the library. The Kansas Highway Patrol bomb unit assisted with the investigation. After examining a package, they determined it did not contain anything hazardous. The man was taken into custody for aggravated criminal threat.

Source: http://articles.kwch.com/2012-08-23/library-employees_33348351

23. *August 23, Washington Post* – (Washington, D.C.; Missouri) **Congressman threats under investigation by Capitol Police, FBI.** Law enforcement authorities were investigating multiple threats made against a U.S. Representative from Missouri, his family, and staff in the days since controversial comments he made, a spokesman said August 23. “Over the last couple of days, there’ve been threats of rape of staff, the Congressman’s family, and suggestions that people die,” the Congressman’s spokesman said. He confirmed that the U.S. Capitol Police and FBI are investigating “which threats are accurate or how to contextualize them.” In an email a Capitol Police spokeswoman said, “This is an active, open investigation.”

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/2chambers/post/todd-akin-threats-under-investigation-by-capitol-police-fbi/2012/08/23/022b6008-ed7b-11e1-9ddc-340d5efb1e9c_blog.html

24. *August 21, Associated Press* – (California) **Man held in connection with Bass Lake explosion.** A parolee is under arrest in connection with an explosion that shattered glass doors at the Bass Lake, California courthouse. The Madera County sheriff said August 21 that the suspect of Oakhurst was in possession of methamphetamine and standing next to a stolen truck with a flat tire when he was caught. Detectives identified him as a suspect in the August 14 explosion after two bomb threats were phoned into two news agencies. The building targeted by the explosives served as the primary satellite courthouse for a remote mountainous region of Madera County. The suspect, who has a “White Pride” tattoo, was being held without bail.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/08/21/4745941/man-held-in-connection-with-bass.html>

For another story, see item [13](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *August 23, Wilmington News Journal* – (Delaware) **Milford police: Woman in custody after suspicious package found.** A Milford, Delaware woman was taken into custody by police August 23 after leaving a suspicious package in the lobby of the Milford Police Department, a news release said. The incident unfolded when she walked into the lobby and left a package containing wording that led officers to believe it contained a harmful substance, said a corporal. She left the building before coming into contact with any officers. As a precaution, troopers from the State police explosive ordnance unit and officers from the State Department of Natural Resources Air and Waste Division responded to ensure the package was safe. A warrant was issued for the woman’s arrest on charges of terroristic threatening, the corporal said, and she was taken into custody without incident at her residence. She was taken to Sussex Correctional Institution in default of \$2,500 secured bail.

Source:

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20120823/NEWS01/120823043/Milford-police-Woman-custody-after-suspicious-package-found>

26. *August 23, KTVO 3 Kirksville* – (Missouri) **False alarms freak out residents.** Two of Kirksville, Missouri’s emergency warning sirens went off unexpectedly August 22. The blaring sirens put several residents on edge. The Adair County E-9-1-1 director said the phone at the dispatch center rang off the hook with residents either reporting the sirens going off or wanting to know why they were sounding. KTVO 3 Kirksville also received a handful of phones calls about it and a few questions about it on the station’s Facebook page. The director said it was a malfunction of some sort. They are not exactly sure what caused the sirens to suddenly go off.

Source:

<http://www.heartlandconnection.com/news/story.aspx?id=792211#.UDeVDqD6eCx>

27. *August 21, Kansas City Star* – (Missouri) **KC Fire Department emergency call system temporarily disabled.** Missouri's Kansas City Fire Department was unable to directly take incoming emergency calls much of August 21. A partial power outage knocked out the department's Computer Assisted Dispatch, or CAD, system. Emergency 9-1-1 calls were then handled by dispatchers using cellphones and walkie-talkies. The electrical power was restored, but the CAD system remained down for several hours, a fire spokesman said. Typically, incoming 9-1-1 fire calls go to the police and then are rerouted to fire communications. With the CAD system down, those calls could not be taken. Early on in the outage, police dispatchers had to call fire communications to relay the information. Later on, fire dispatchers went to the police building to handle the calls.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/2012/08/21/3772212/kc-fire-department-emergency-call.html>

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Information Technology Sector

28. *August 24, Tech2* – (International) **WebSense Security Labs discusses malware targeting BlackBerry users.** WebSense Security Labs researchers have intercepted a malware campaign aimed at BlackBerry users. The campaign runs through fake emails stating the recipient has successfully created a BlackBerry ID. The email says that to enjoy the full benefits of the BlackBerry ID, the recipient should follow the instructions given in the attached file. This is done to trick the user into running the malicious file. The fake email is a copy of a genuine email from BlackBerry. Websense researchers found that once the attachment is set running, it drops other executable files and modifies the system registry. The malware programs automatically start, once the system restarts.

Source: <http://tech2.in.com/news/general/websense-security-labs-discusses-malware-targeting-blackberry-users/390882>

29. *August 23, Computer Reseller News* – (International) **Trend Micro security expert: Malware attack against VMware limited in scope.** Security researchers determined that some new variants of a new malware family called "Crisis," aka "Morcut," can infect VMware virtual machines and Windows Mobile devices. But, a security expert at Trend Micro points to current evidence that says the majority of VMware's most widely deployed products are not currently under attack. "VMware has a family of test development and productivity products called Workstation and Player," said the director of datacenter products at Trend Micro, in an interview with CRN. "This malware only affects these types of hypervisors. The data center products are not under attack at this point. But, it's important to be aware that some malware writer in the future can try to leverage this same technique against the data center products. So, it's important to make sure that your anti-malware products are up to date and that you have effectively locked down access to key directories and repositories." He said at this

point, it appears that the malware in question is aimed at spying upon the users, most likely Web behavior and communications. The rate of incidence in the wild appears to be very low, at this point, with fewer than 100 systems impacted, according to Trend Micro.

Source: <http://www.crn.com/news/security/240006175/trend-micro-security-expert-malware-attack-against-vmware-limited-in-scope.htm>

For another story, see item [8](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

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Commercial Facilities Sector

30. *August 24, KEWQ 3 Palm Springs* – (California) **Five businesses destroyed in Indio strip mall fire.** Firefighters in Indio, California, said five businesses were destroyed in a two-alarm fire that spread through the attic of a strip mall August 24. The Indio Fire Division chief said “the fire spread from a center unit to five other businesses to the east. A vacant video store and Dominos were saved, but the rest of the building appears to be destroyed.” It took firefighters more than 3 hours to completely extinguish the flames. There was a taco shop, Frankie’s Fresh Fish Restaurant, a chinese food restaurant, a check cashing business, and a Phen Fen shop in the strip mall. The Imperial Irrigation District planned to cut electricity to customers at nearby Del Mar Apartments, and other customers, because of the fire. A shelter was reportedly being set up to help residents dealing with temperatures in the low 100’s. Indio police closed Highway 111’s east and westbound lanes and Avenue 46. The closures were expected to last for several hours. The businesses were all closed when the fire was reported.

Source: <http://www.kesq.com/news/Five-businesses-destroyed-in-Indio-strip-mall-fire/-/233092/16252072/-/s41o2mz/-/index.html>

31. *August 24, Tire Review* – (National) **Two killed, two wounded in three store attacks.** In what was probably the two bloodiest days in North American tire industry history, three separate attacks by gunman at tire dealerships resulted in two deaths and multiple injuries. An employee at Toliver’s Used Tire Service in Jacksonville, Florida, was shot by a passenger in a passing car August 22. The employee was standing

outside the store when the suspect drove by, with a passenger firing three to four times at the employee. He was wounded and was taken to a local hospital for treatment. In Detroit, a tire store employee was left in critical condition after being shot multiple times while he was at work August 23. Police said the suspect apparently took a cab to the tire store specifically to speak with the employee, but fled on foot after the shooting. In San Bernardino, California, August 23, a customer and a tire store employee were shot and killed, and four men were arrested and charged in the double murder. Witnesses said that two masked gunmen walked up to the employee and the customer at the JMC Tire location in the city, and, without a word began shooting. Police said 10 shots were fired. The employee died on the scene, while the customer passed away after being rushed to a hospital. Police said that a citizen followed the suspects' vehicle and reported the vehicle description and license plate number, which led directly to their quick arrest.

Source:

[http://www.tirereview.com/Article/104114/two killed two wounded in three store attacks.aspx](http://www.tirereview.com/Article/104114/two-killed-two-wounded-in-three-store-attacks.aspx)

32. *August 24, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **Cleveland man arrested after Walmart standoff.** Authorities identified the suspect arrested August 24 following a standoff in the parking lot of Walmart in Sylvania Township, Ohio. The suspect was charged with inducing panic, disorderly conduct, and obstructing official business, stated Sylvania Township police. Township police received a phone call at 2:09 a.m. about a camper in the Walmart parking lot. The caller told police he had heard a male yelling that he needed a gun, police said. Once police arrived at the scene they heard a man yelling in the camper and saw movement inside. They then tried to talk to the man but he did not respond. A SWAT team later removed the man from the camper and took him into custody. Employees and shoppers were locked inside the store during the incident.

Source: <http://www.toledoblade.com/frontpage/2012/08/24/Wal-Mart-locked-in-standoff-in-parking-lot.html>

33. *August 24, CNN* – (New York) **Empire State Building shootings kill 2 and wound 8, police say.** A disgruntled former worker sparked chaos in front of the Empire State Building in New York City August 24 when he shot and killed a co-worker and engaged in a gun battle with police that left at least eight others wounded, authorities said. The shooter was killed in an exchange of gunfire with two police officers just as visitors began to queue up to ascend the famous skyscraper. The officers fired 14 rounds after the suspect apparently turned his gun on them, said the New York police commissioner. Some of the wounded people may have been hit in the crossfire or by ricocheting bullets, he said. The suspect was apparently laid off from his job as a designer of women's accessories at Hazan Imports in 2011. Dressed in a business suit and carrying a briefcase, he apparently had a longstanding dispute with the victim over allegations of harassment in the workplace, police said. Both men had filed prior complaints. A construction worker followed the gunman after the initial gunshots and alerted officers. Two police officers were being treated at a hospital, though no injuries are considered life-threatening, the New York mayor said. The suspect used a .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun and was carrying extra ammunition in his briefcase, stated police. Local and federal authorities who converged on the building around 9

a.m. closed several streets around 5th Avenue and 34th Street, snarling traffic in the heart of Manhattan. Shortly after the incident, a medical center reported it was treating six victims suffering from gunshot wounds. All the injuries were not life threatening, stated a hospital spokeswoman.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/08/24/justice/new-york-empire-state/index.html>

34. *August 23, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **San Leandro: Fire officials investigate blaze at Korean church.** Fire officials investigated reports that suggested arson caused a two-alarm fire August 22 at a Korean church in San Leandro, California. Multiple reports to police suggested Molotov cocktails were being thrown in the area where the East Bay Korean Church of the Nazarene is located, the battalion chief said. The cause and origin were still under investigation, though it does appear the fire originated outside. A 9-1-1 caller reported seeing flames and smoke coming from the hillside church, the battalion chief said. No injuries were reported, though the church sustained heavy smoke and fire damage throughout the building, as well as extensive structural damage to the exterior.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_21384101/san-leandro-fire-officials-investigate-blaze-at-korean

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

35. *August 24, Associated Press* – (California) **Residents relax as fire threat abates in N. Calif.** Residents of a tiny mountain town breathed easier August 24 after air tankers and helicopters blunted the run of a massive wildfire in Northern California just outside Lassen Volcanic National Park, the Associated Press reported August 24. Sixty-four homes and 20 other buildings were destroyed, mostly in the Manton area, since lightning ignited the blaze August 18, a State fire spokesman said. It was threatening 900 other homes as it burned a new front to the south. About 2,500 firefighters were at the blaze, which has grown to 44 square miles in the hills about 30 miles southeast of Redding. Elsewhere in the State, a large wildfire in Plumas National Forest north of Sacramento expanded to 99 square miles. It started at the end of July and threatens about 900 homes, and was 55 percent contained as of August 23. The California fires were among several stubborn wildfires in the west. In Washington, crews were working on a week-old wildfire that has destroyed 51 homes and 26 outbuildings, authorities said. The fire, about 75 miles east of Seattle, has caused an estimated \$8.3 million in property damage. In Idaho, firefighters were burning and removing vegetation near the town of Featherville in hopes of protecting hundreds of evacuated homes from an approaching wildfire. Fire managers said that blaze already has charred 164 square miles, forcing the residents to evacuate due to heavy smoke.

Source: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2012/aug/24/air-crews-make-dent-in-massive-calif-wildfire/>

36. *August 24, KTVB 7 Boise* – (Idaho) **Wildfire forces evacuations near Salmon River.** About two-dozen homes and properties north of the Salmon River Road were ordered to evacuate due to the 99,000-acre Mustang Complex Fire west of North Fork, Idaho, KTVB 7 Boise reported August 24. The Mustang Complex Fire includes several smaller fires burning in Idaho's Salmon-Challis National Forest. The Lemhi County Sheriff's Office issued a mandatory evacuation order for the Indian Creek and Spring Creek drainage areas August 23.
Source: <http://www.ktvb.com/news/Wildfire-forces-evacuations-near-Salmon-River--167320705.html>
37. *August 24, CBS News* – (New York) **Vandals cause more than \$100K in damages at historic New York cemetery.** A historic New York City cemetery was vandalized causing more than \$100,000 in damages, CBS news reported August 24. Green-Wood Cemetery officials announced that 43 memorials had been knocked over or defaced. The Brooklyn burial grounds, which were founded in 1838, were declared a National Historic Landmark in 2006 by the U.S. Department of the Interior. It is one of America's first rural cemeteries and was also the location of the Battle of Long Island during the Revolutionary War. About 90 staff members who were working on the cemetery grounds discovered the damage August 21. Many monuments broke into pieces after being toppled including an arch and several urns, according to WCBS 2 New York. Though there are constant car patrols of the grounds, mounted video cameras, and a high fence that surrounds the 478-acre cemetery, a vandal or a group of vandals were able to enter the premises and topple and deface some of the monuments.
Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57500039/vandals-cause-more-than-\\$100k-in-damages-at-historic-new-york-cemetery/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57500039/vandals-cause-more-than-$100k-in-damages-at-historic-new-york-cemetery/)
38. *August 24, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Officers raid 11K plant marijuana grow in Sawtooth.** Federal and local law enforcement officers raided a marijuana grow operation with more than 11,100 plants near Galena Summit in the Sawtooth National Forest in Idaho. The Blaine County sheriff's office and other law enforcement agencies began eradicating the illegal plants August 23, along with fertilizer, pesticides, and camping gear. A U.S. attorney said the grow site was spotted by a bow hunter scouting the area with his son. A sheriff said another hiker stumbled upon the area August 22 and he heard gunshots being fired behind him as he walked away. Since 2005, more than 130,000 marijuana plants have been removed from public lands in Idaho, including more than 42,000 plants found in Caribou County in July.
Source: <http://www.khq.com/story/19367417/officers-raid-11k-plant-marijuana-grow-in-sawtooth>
39. *August 23, KFFB 5 Great Falls* – (Montana) **Black Beach Fire remains at 1,450 acres burned.** The Black Beach Fire, sparked by lightning and located southeast of the Log Gulch Campground on Montana's Holter Lake, burned 1,450 acres by August 23. The Lewis and Clark County sheriff said that "Beartooth Game Ridge, Wildlife Management Area is still closed because of fire activity and fire potential. Also, the campground at Log Gulch and Departure Point are closed because we have a lot of fire personnel moving in and out of there." Ten structures were potentially threatened. There was a red flag warning in effect and potential winds up to 30 mph. The sheriff

anticipated the Beartooth Wildlife Management area and Log Gulch Campground would remain evacuated through the weekend of August 25.

Source: <http://www.kfbb.com/news/local/Black-Beach-Fire-Remains-at-1450-Acres-Burned-167257795.html>

40. *August 22, Riverside Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Gopher Gasser caused Vista Fire.** Fire investigators laid the blame for a 500-acre fire in the Winchester section of Riverside County, California, on a pest-control device, the Riverside Press-Enterprise reported August 22. The device produces a gas or flare to exterminate gophers and other small ground-dwelling pests, Cal Fire said. The fire, which started August 20, spread from its ignition point at Vista and Rawson roads to consume 500 acres of brush before it was contained that night, Cal Fire said. Two firefighters suffered minor injuries during the battle against the flames.

Source: <http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/hemet/hemet-headlines-index/20120822-update-gopher-gasser-caused-vista-fire.ece>

For another story, see item [33](#)

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Dams Sector

41. *August 23, Reuters* – (Tennessee) **Tennessee Valley Authority liable for 2008 coal ash spill-ruling.** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is legally responsible for a 2008 accident that sent 5 million cubic yards of toxic coal sludge oozing into a small community in eastern Tennessee, a federal judge ruled August 23. The judge said the levee that was supposed to keep the wet coal ash confined failed because of conduct on the part of the authority. As a result, the federally owned utility will have to pay unspecified damages to more than 800 plaintiffs who sued after the spill. Hundreds of acres of land in Roane County were covered and hundreds of residents were forced from their homes. “Had TVA followed its own mandatory policies, procedures, and practices, the subsurface issues underlying the failure of North Dike would have been investigated, addressed, and potentially remedied before the catastrophic failure,” the judge wrote. The TVA said in a statement that it had already purchased nearly 180 properties affected by the spill, settled more than 200 other claims submitted by residents, and paid \$43 million to the Roane County Economic Development Foundation for use by communities in the affected area. The ruling signals the beginning of a new phase in litigation against the TVA; plaintiffs will now have to prove they were each directly impacted by the spill.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/24/us-usa-environment-tva-spill-idUSBRE87N00120120824>

42. *August 23, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Souris River levee system to get final repairs.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a contract to complete repairs to Souris River levees in Minot and Burlington, North Dakota, damaged by historic flooding during the summer of 2011, the Associated Press reported August 23. Construction is to be completed by the end of 2012. The Corps has spent nearly \$3

million fixing the levee system since the 2011 flood. The agency said that once the final repairs are done, residents will have the same flood protection they had before the flood. Separately, a U.S. Senator said the Corps is giving Minot \$1.9 million for sanitary sewer repairs.

Source: <http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/243491/group/homepage/>

43. *August 23, Teton Valley News* – (Idaho) **Asthton Reservoir drawdown averted.** PacifiCorp announced August 21 they would not have to draw down the Ashton Reservoir in Idaho to fix leakage problems with the coffer dam, the Teton Valley News, reported August 23. PacifiCorp discovered that a concrete cut-off wall underneath the existing dam could be used to allow the project to proceed without the need to more drastically protect the existing coffer dam. Early the week of August 13, PacifiCorp was considering an option to draw the reservoir down by up to 5 feet in order to fix the coffer dam. The reservoir has already been drawn down to a level below which it was not supposed to drop further. Another drawdown could have flushed an annual supply of sediment through river below the dam over the course of a much shorter time period.

Source: http://www.tetonvalleynews.net/news/asthton-reservoir-drawdown-averted/article_a372f74a-ed86-11e1-b915-0019bb2963f4.html

44. *August 23, Associated Press* – (California) **Sacramento levees fail federal maintenance rules.** A levee system protecting Sacramento, California, and 15 other Central Valley cities from floods does not meet federal maintenance requirements, threatening eligibility for federal rebuilding dollars if the system should fail. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said August 23 it determined the State's levee improvement plan does not provide enough detail to ensure maintenance problems get fixed. "Though these levee systems are currently ineligible for rehabilitation assistance, we are still here to help," the Corps' Sacramento District colonel said. The levees affected include 40 miles on the American and Sacramento rivers surrounding the city of Sacramento. One problem highlighted by the Corps was homes built too close to the levees, leaving less than the 15-foot-wide maintenance corridor required.

Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/article/206384/2/Sacramento-levees-fail-federal-maintenance-rules>

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